



CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of November 22, 2011:

Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.: Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) closure activities have been ongoing since the last chemical munition in the Anniston inventory was destroyed on Sept. 22. Since then, employees have been removing heating and air conditioning carbon filters, chemical agent collection systems and equipment from the explosion containment vestibule. The ANCDF met Treaty and Surety termination requirements allowing the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on-site treaty team to leave Anniston. At the Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA), employees continue to monitor and clean igloos that once stored munitions. Due to the realignment of the ANCA mission from munition storage to closure, preparations for a Reduction in Force are underway this month and letters were issued 29 Nov.

Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.: Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) will continue Igloo Filtration System testing through January 2012. Senator McConnell's and Senator Paul's Congressional Staffs toured BGCA on Nov. 30. BGCA is involved in monthly speakers' bureau events to educate local communities on safe storage and to build a stronger community relationship. BGCA is now available to view and "like" on Facebook. Please let them hear from you!

Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah: Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) workers are processing the remaining 155 mm mustard projectiles. On Nov. 10, workers at the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) safely completed destruction of Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) stockpile of GA nerve agent. This represents complete disposal of DCD's nerve agent as well as the first chemical disposal operations to take place at the ATLIC, which commenced Oct. 31. Workers at the ATLIC are preparing for the final agent destruction campaign to destroy DCD's small stockpile of lewisite blister agent. The Tooele Army Depot has received approval to obtain DCD facilities and property when the chemical weapons storage mission is complete. The official transfer of authority will be in July 2013 during an official casing of the colors ceremony, marking the end of DCD's command.

Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) received approval of the closure certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality for five of the eleven Hazardous Waste Management Units at PBCDF. These units include: the Dunnage Room, Agent Collection System, Deactivation Furnace System, Process Utility Building and the Container Handling Building. Refractory brick removal from the Liquid Incinerator was completed on Nov. 16. All the agent perimeter monitoring stations have been removed from their various locations at the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo.: Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) stores mustard-filled munitions: 105 mm projectiles and cartridges, 155 mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortar cartridges. Lt. Col. Greenhaw, PCD Commander, was a keynote speaker at the annual Veterans Day celebration in Pueblo, Colo., held at the Colorado State University Pueblo Campus for the rededication of the Southeast Asia War Memorial.

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) closure activities are in full swing following the Oct. 25 completion of chemical agent disposal operations at the facility. Demolition activities in the Brine Reduction Area (BRA) Pollution Abatement System (PAS), including removal of the BRA PAS exhaust stack and removal of the last major piece of the BRA baghouse, were completed Nov. 16. In addition, workers have completed removal of the refractory brick in the Deactivation Furnace System and have removed equipment from Explosive Containment Room (ECR) A. ECR B equipment removal is underway. On Nov. 15, the Surety Termination Packet was signed by the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) Commander following the completion of surety agent flush requirements. The action rescinds the security requirements of Army Regulation 190-59 initiating installation-wide changes through the UMCD Surety Termination Action Plan.



Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility workers stand in front of the last Enhanced On-Site Container.

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Completes Destruction Operations

Closure operations underway

On October 25, operators at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) at Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) reached 100 percent destruction completion of their chemical weapons stockpile. Using incineration technology, the site safely destroyed 12 percent of the nation's original chemical weapons stockpile—220,604 nerve agent and mustard agent munitions and containers holding 3,717 tons of chemical agent. UMCDF began destruction operations in September 2004.

CMA Director Conrad Whyne praised the Umatilla workforce saying, "This is a great day for the U.S. Army, the people of Oregon and our Nation. Thanks to the steadfast dedication of the Umatilla team—the United States Army, its civilian workers and contractors—the Umatilla community, the state of Oregon, and our Nation are all safer today. I could not be more proud of our workforce."

The UMCD and UMCDF are now in closure operations which will continue for up to 48 months. Closure operations are conducted in accordance with agreement from all appropriate stakeholders as to the facility and storage area end-states.

The first physical change from closure operations at UMCDF has been the demolition of the Brine Reduction Area (BRA) Pollution Abatement System stack. The destruction of the BRA is expected to be complete this month; more than half of the UMCDF's structures will be demolished over the next two to three years. All areas used to process chemical agent or the exhaust from the furnaces will be torn down—demolished in compliance with the site's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit.

Due to the complete destruction of the stockpile, the risk of chemical agent exposure to the public around the site has been eliminated. Destruction of the stockpile also eliminates the need for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program to conduct Tone Alert Radio tests in the counties surrounding the site.

Umatilla's completion of destruction operations brings the Army one step closer to "making chemical weapons history" a reality.

Waste from Pueblo Chemical Depot Shipped to Veolia

On the morning of Nov. 17, 12 drums of solid waste, one drum of spent decontamination solution and one box of used filters from the air filtration system, were shipped from an igloo within the Chemical Limited Area at Pueblo Chemical Depot to the Veolia Environmental Services plant in Port Arthur, Texas.

The drivers of the tractor trailer—a husband and wife team—took turns driving straight through the approximately

20-hour trip from Pueblo, Colo. to the Veolia plant at Port Arthur, Texas. An additional team of two emergency response drivers followed the truck in an emergency response vehicle. When the truck arrived at Veolia the next morning, the drums were unloaded and taken to a conveyor belt where they were fed into the plant's furnace.



Steve Bird, Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project, explains to international roundtable representatives the process of how the Explosive Destruction System destroys chemical-filled, explosively configured munitions in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

CMA's Capabilities Showcased to International Audience

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP), in conjunction with the Department of Defense and the Department of State, hosted representatives from Iraq, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons from November 15-17 for an international roundtable. The roundtable included discussions on project management, planning, techniques and disposal options for the destruction of chemical warfare materiel (CWM) in Iraq. During the three-day workshop, CMA showcased its chemical warfare materiel assessment and treatment expertise, as well as its overall CWM project management and planning experience.

On November 17, representatives toured the NSCMP equipment on display at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility (CDTF) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Subject matter experts gave in-depth briefings of NSCMP's exclusive assessment and treatment capabilities. The Mobile Munitions Assessment System (MMAS), Explosive Destruction System (EDS), and Mobile Command Post were featured during the tour. Other systems on display included a mobile laboratory, a filter unit and a real time analytical platform from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center.

OPCW Holds Sixteenth Session

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) held the Sixteenth Session of its Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Nov. 28-Dec. 2, at The Hague, Netherlands. Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons, Mr. Carmen Spencer, and U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Public Affairs Specialist, Ms. Karen Jolley, attended, showcasing U.S. success in chemical demilitarization at the four-day event.

Some of CMA's highlights from the past year include safe completion of disposal operations at three sites—Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. Three CMA chemical demilitarization sites have already closed—Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Aberdeen

Non-invasive assessment systems from the MMAS on display included the Digital Radiography and Computed Tomography (DRCT) unit, the Portable Isotopic Neutron Spectroscopy Systems (PINS) and the Raman Spectrometer. The DRCT is an x-ray system capable of producing three dimensional images that are used to identify both energetic components and other visual characteristics of liquid-filled munitions. The results of neutron spectroscopy and laser spectroscopy from the PINS and Raman, respectively, are used to non-invasively determine the liquid fill within munitions and other containers.

The EDS was also on display with NSCMP experts explaining how the system destroys chemical-filled, explosively-configured munitions in a safe and environmentally-sound manner. The tour concluded with the representatives touring the CDTF's laboratory training facility, which has been a staple of CMA's chemical demilitarization program for almost two decades.

NSCMP Deputy Project Manager Jeffrey Harris reported that, "The dialogue among all parties was highly productive and highlights the multi-lateral efforts of all Chemical Weapons Convention treaty partners to the total elimination of chemical weapons."

Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. CMA's final demilitarization site is on pace to finish operations in 2012.

The OPCW oversees the CWC, which prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons. The United States ratified the Convention in 1997, along with 86 other nations. Today, more than 180 nations have ratified the CWC; five countries have neither signed nor acceded to the CWC.

CMA is responsible for safely storing and destroying the majority of the aging U.S. chemical weapons and related materials. The responsibility for destroying the chemical weapons stockpiles in Kentucky and Colorado falls under the U.S. Army Element Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program.



Upon their arrival for the Wounded Warrior Hunt, Warriors from Fort Campbell and Fort Knox are greeted with applause by Blue Grass Chemical Activity volunteers, Patriot Guard Riders and Kentucky State Troopers.

BGAD and BGCA Host Wounded Warrior Hunt

Rockcastle Middle School in Mt. Vernon, Ky., honored veterans from as far away as Alaska during its 11th Veteran's Day Ceremony last month. Approximately 1,000 people attended the event and Lt. Col. Steven Basso, Commander of the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA), presented Principal Jason Coguer with a Certificate of Appreciation for the school's support and contributions toward the Wounded Warrior Hunt. Lt. Col. Basso also recognized Mrs. Kathy Bobo—the project lead for the school.

The Wounded Warrior Hunt was hosted by the Blue Grass Army Depot and BGCA on Nov. 17-19. Attendees included twenty-nine combat-injured men and women serving in the Warrior Transition Battalions at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell, Ky. Many of the warriors suffered traumatic brain injuries, amputations or severe burns.

Wounded Warrior spokeswoman Ayla Hay said, "Part of what we do at Wounded Warrior Project is make these warriors see they can have a new normal and a new life and still accomplish your goals, just in a different way."

The Wounded Warrior Project, a non-profit organization, was formed in 2002 by a former Soldier who was severely wounded in a helicopter crash while serving in Somalia in 1992. The group's mission is to "honor and empower wounded warriors."

Reducing Holiday Stress

The holidays bring emotions of comfort and joy but can also bring another overwhelming feeling—stress. Everything from shopping to baking to traveling can make us worn out, depressed and frustrated. Follow these simple solutions to reduce stress and regain that jolly, holiday feeling:

- **Take time to exercise. A fit body is better able to fight off sickness—easing stress.**
- **Eat healthy, well-balanced meals and avoid "stress eating."**
- **Avoid excessive alcohol consumption—it does not reduce stress.**
- **Get 6-8 hours of sleep per night. Your body needs this time to recover from the day's stresses.**
- **Accept that there are events you cannot control; be realistic about expectations from family and friends.**
- **Calmly express feelings of frustration and stress—don't keep everything bottled up.**

In these times, it is more important than ever to reduce stress, not only to enjoy the holiday season but also to maintain good health; and to be able to enjoy family and friends as well!